

Our Vision

A healthy Louisville where everyone
and every community thrives.

Our Mission

To achieve health equity and
improve the health and well-being of
all Louisville residents and visitors.

Values

Collaboration, Grit, Innovative,
Integrity, Quality

LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Summer 2022
Student Experiences Catalog*



DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH
AND WELLNESS

<https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>

NOTE TO STUDENTS

Practicum and internship opportunities are available at the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW). Projects fall into a variety of public health concentration areas (epidemiology, health promotion, biostatistics, etc.). We have detailed a few specific projects that are currently available. Please refer to the division and project descriptions throughout and contact our academic health coordinator to discuss a project included here or an idea for one that is not featured in this catalogue at LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov.

You can find much more information on the department by visiting <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness>. For further information on the types of data collected and monitored by LMPHW, please visit: <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/health-wellness/public-health-data-reports>.

LMPHW STUDENT EXPERIENCES OVERVIEW

The Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness (LMPHW) is an accredited independent health department under the leadership of Director/Chief Health Strategist Sarah Moyer, MD, MPH. We deliver programs and services primarily through two sections: Health Operations & Center for Health Equity (CHE). Health Operations includes the Clinical/Health Services Division, Environmental Health Division, Office of Emergency & Public Health Preparedness, Laboratory Services, and Leadership, Development, & Administration. The Center for Health Equity contains Partnerships, Performance, and Policy & Innovation. CHE aims to achieve equity in the social determinants of health throughout Metro Louisville using a “Health in All Policies” approach.

Students will have the opportunity to understand the functional and practical work of a Metropolitan Health Department serving a population of approximately 750,000. Distinctive populations have been identified as under served and divergent health outcomes are indicated in association with the social determinants of health. Students will earn practical experience through working alongside public health practitioners while they work on projects including the following:

- Public Health Administration
- Policy Development
- Strategic Planning
- Public Health Accreditation maintenance
- Results Framework
- Quality Improvement
- Maternal and Child Health
- Public Health Law – Food service and Public Facility Establishments
- Chronic Disease Prevention – Health Promotions
- Vital Statistics data analysis
- Disease Surveillance & Monitoring
- Hazardous Materials Response
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Emergency Preparedness
- Drug Addiction – HIV/STD

Once you have browsed this catalog and selected a project of interest, please send a cover letter and resume to LMPHWinterns@louisvilleky.gov.

Title: Community Research on Substance Use and Stigma
Division: Center for Health Equity
Concentration area(s): Substance Use, Research Methodology

LMPHW Advisor: Cillian Browne

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intern will collect data from community members through research and surveys with the intent of learning more about local sentiment around substance use. Student will conduct surveys and focus groups to gain insight into stigma around specific drugs, modes of use, mental illness, and associated social determinants of health.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

With this project we hope to better understand the changing views held by residents around substance use. Although the community seems more supportive of harm reduction initiatives like Narcan distribution and syringe services, we are aware that stigma remains prevalent.

We aim to grasp a clear and firm understanding on how people view these issues in our community, the role community members play and the role they expect us to play. With this data we hope to be able to improve our educational campaigns, programming, and policy changes.

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- The preferred candidate will have knowledge of or an interest in;
- Survey Methodology
- Public Health and Wellness
- Substance Use Disorder
- Health Equity
- Qualitative & Quantitative Data Research

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: 20-40

Estimated project duration: 1-2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):

Ideally some data analysis software

Title: Behavioral Health Dashboard
Division: CHE- Behavioral Health & Data Team
Concentration area(s): Data Analysis, Behavioral Health

LMPHW Advisor: Taylor Young

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LMPHW does not have a mechanism to publish timely data on critical behavioral health outcomes like mental health hospitalizations and overdose, and either responds to ad hoc requests or publishes delayed vital statistics data annually. By developing a dashboard display of behavioral health data and factors that may contribute to these health outcomes, we'll provide necessary information to LMPHW staff as well as the public. By having a source with this information, our future projects can focus on evaluating the behavioral health data creating strategies to better address these the factors relating to these health outcomes.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

Create a mySidewalk dashboard that conveys the current state and contributing factors to behavioral health outcomes (overdose, deaths, suicide, mental health hospitalization) that is maintained jointly by CHE epidemiologists and the behavioral health equity team.

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Familiarity with R, SAS, or SPSS
- Familiarity with analyzing large data sets

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: 10-15

Estimated project duration: 6-8 weeks

Support needed (ie, specific software):
R, SAS, or SPSS

Title: CHE community partner/resource catalogue

Division: Center for Health Equity (CHE), Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness

Concentration area(s): Health management and systems science, Health Equity, Health Policy/Ethics

LMPHW Advisor: Haritha Pallam

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Center for Health Equity and LMPHW are seeking to meaningfully partner with community members to advance health equity and to better address community needs and priorities, especially for communities with complex health and social needs. Research suggests that barriers for health care systems to engage communities and their members are many, including a lack of established relationships and trust, divergent health priorities and motivations, the power imbalance between well-funded health care organizations and typically under-resourced community-based organizations, and differences in culture (Spencer, 2019). These factors can pose an even bigger obstacle for populations with complex health and social needs who are often disenfranchised, making authentic engagement even more challenging for health care systems serving these communities. This type of connection and collaboration, however, is critical in order to fully understand the needs and priorities of underserved communities and address community-level drivers of health outcomes.

To address the above barriers, the primary objective of this project is to create a comprehensive catalogue for community partners and resources we have for each program and intervention within CHE, LMPHW. This self-assessment will help CHE leadership to understand: (1) Needs and priorities of the collaborative interventions and the populations they serve (2) Help establish connections between program/intervention objectives Vs health equity focus areas and measures (3) Help establish better communication strategies and support infrastructure (4) Establish means of authentic engagement and allocation of priority resources accordingly (as available) (5) Reduce redundancies and/or loss of contacts/information due to barriers such as staff turnover, change in the funding streams or vision/focus of the collaborative agencies (6) help establish comprehensive policies and guidance around operations, continuous quality improvement, assurance and reporting. The resultant shared understanding may help programs within CHE meaningfully transform care and better serve communities with complex health and social needs.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Participate in designing process and appropriate questions.
- Perform literature review to for continuous quality improvement and inclusion of best models/metrics to perform the current assessment.
- Identifying the team leads within each program/intervention within CHE, LMPHW.
- Schedule meetings to initiate conversations around community partnerships and collect/record information for each program/intervention
- Create electronic catalogue (on sharepoint or CHE website) for each program include details such as the overall purpose and goals of the program, primary contact lists for collaborating agencies/partners and so on.
- Perform regular check-ins with team leads to perform regular updates to the catalogue
- Additional tasks may be assigned as we progress through the project, or the above activities will be adjusted based on the student availability and subject area expertise

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Perform literature review using PubMed and other platforms
- Data collection, processing and management using MS office applications such as Excel, Word and LMPHW sharepoint
- Able to review and summarizing study results

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: up to 8 hrs/week

Estimated project duration: 2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software):

None at this time. Access to LMPHW internal systems may suffice.

Title: Essential Needs Program Evaluation

Division: Center for Health Equity

Concentration area(s): Health Equity, Epidemiology, Health Policy/Ethics, Biostatistics

LMPHW Advisor: Haritha Pallam

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To address the complex systemic changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, local government interventions were created to ensure necessary resources and skills are available to carry out a timely and effective response to the communities in need. Research suggests that these interventions help individuals develop heightened perceived control and motivation to exhibit preparedness behaviors (Najafi, 2017). However, public health emergencies evolve quickly, and their impact is further compounded by communities subjected to social inequities within Louisville (LMPHW, 2021). Therefore, response strategies are crucial to continuously understand how communities perceive emergencies and the people responding to it (WHO., 2019). Local responses to emergencies, including COVID-19, illustrate the need to find ways to build mutual trust through community engagement and collaboration with local leaders to adjust interventions over time based on the feedback and perceptions of affected and at-risk communities.

As part of the COVID-19 response, our aim is to collect and analyze unstructured feedback from the community members and potentially emergency response leadership (including LMPHW internal teams and external agencies) within Louisville area to try and answer several questions including: how did LMPHW COVID-19 response programs/services help communities who regularly experience health inequities within Louisville Metro area? Were essential needs program (ENP) and services useful for communities within Louisville Metro area? What supports or services did community need during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020? Do they need the same resources in 2021/Now? For ENP services, Is the overall response planning and collaboration (with other agencies) adequate to enable Jefferson County population in limiting the community spread of COVID-19? How can we help create interventions and infrastructure that can mitigate complex systemic limitations on at risk populations caused by COVID-19 pandemic and future public health emergencies?

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- ENP consumer evaluation survey rollout, data cleanup and other data processing functions
- Participate in designing process and summative evaluation measures; design appropriate evaluation questions and survey tools/questionnaires as necessary.
- Perform regular ENP program data (secondary data) consolidation (qualitative and quantitative), analysis and report findings to understand the program utilization trends and usefulness of ENP services as well as the overall COVID-19 response efforts.
- Perform literature review to for continuous quality improvement and inclusion of best models/metrics in ENP evaluation tools.
- Help with interview participant scheduling, note taking and maintaining catalogue for interview recordings.
- Additional tasks may be assigned as we progress through the project, or the above activities will be adjusted based on the student availability and subject area expertise

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Perform literature review using PubMed and other platforms
- Data collection, processing and analysis using MS office applications such as Excel or statistical softwares such as R, SPSS.
- Perform basic data analysis functions
- Able to review and summarizing study results

Number of students (min-max): min 2 students, up to 3 max

Estimated hours/week: up to 8 hrs/ week

Estimated project duration: 2 semesters

Support needed (ie, specific software): SPSS or R

Title: Program Inventory and Evaluation
Division: Center for Health Equity
Concentration area(s): QI, Monitoring and Evaluation; Health Equity

LMPHW Advisor: Elise Joyce

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is designed to inventory and investigate each program within LMPHW to understand their basic functions and the data they collect. This will allow the CHE Performance and Population Health team construct a data governance team and a data inventory. The student, depending on skills and interest, may also help gather information for a public health data inventory and provide support to the data governance team as they convene to work on standardizing metrics (e.g., race/ethnicity) that are commonly collected by programs across the department.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Synthesize information collected previously around programs and their basic descriptions
- Fill out pre-made forms for each program within the department
- Use information gathered to suggest improvements
- Identify data being collected and where it is stored
- Join meetings, help create agendas, take notes, research issues raised by data governance team

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Attention to detail
- Communication skills & professionalism with respect to interviewing/surveying program managers and supervisors
- Basic understanding of public health data
- Project management skills

Number of students (min-max): 1/ 6 (easily scalable)

Estimated hours/week: 4-8 but dependent on # of students

Estimated project duration: 3-6 months but easily adjusted

Support needed (ie, specific software): students will need flexibility in their schedules to be able to meet with program managers and supervisors on their time. Use of basic Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel)

Title: Healthy Babies Louisville/MCH Support
Division: Center for Health Equity
Concentration area(s): Maternal Child Health

LMPHW Advisor: Jan Rogers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Work to advance equity within the community alongside healthcare practitioners, social service agencies, metro govt and community facing organizations to better maternal child health outcomes within Louisville through policy reform, community led initiatives and building strong and healthy relationships with the community.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Introduce student innovation into Healthy Babies Louisville work and initiatives.
- Aid in transition to making Healthy Babies Louisville community led
- Educate student on historical context of racism, sexism, ablism, transphobia and homophobia and its effect on maternal child health
- Educate student on current Black Maternal Health Crisis

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Understanding of basic Public Health concepts (equity, social determinants of health/root causes, systems of power, socioecological model)
- Interest in maternal child health

Number of students (min-max): 1-4

Estimated hours/week: 5

Estimated project duration: Semester

Support needed (ie, specific software):

Microsoft office, Outlook, Zoom and Webex

Title: Geocoding Vital Statistics Data / Updating Regular Reports
Division: Data / Epidemiology, Center for Health Equity
Concentration area(s): Population Health / Data Preparation

LMPHW Advisor: Trey Allen & Felicia Pugh

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

LMPHW receives vital statistics data from the State and these records are used for much of the data work that LMPHW and CHE conducts. For geographic use, this data needs to be geocoded, which takes some time from the data team's work on other tasks. Interested interns will help geocode vital statistics data for use in a variety of reports.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR THIS PROJECT

- Geocoded vital statistics records for department use.
- Updated vital statistics report.
- Regular internal reports where applicable.

PREFERRED SKILLS:

- Ability to use Microsoft programs, specifically Microsoft Excel.
- Familiarity with accessing basic quantitative data, e.g. US Census, CDC WONDER.
- Time management.
- Has basic GIS skills preferred

Number of students (min-max): 1

Estimated hours/week: 3-7

Estimated project duration: Summer/Early Fall

Support needed (ie, specific software): LMG computer access (sensitive data), Microsoft Office